

now been convicted and pardoned by the President. Mr. Safavian was appointed by the President to take care of Government contracts. He was a dishonest man. He had sweetheart deals with other people, including Jack Abramoff. He was led away from his office in handcuffs and is now in prison.

In the House of Representatives—controlled by the Republicans—the former majority leader of the House of Representatives was convicted three times of ethics violations. They changed the rules for him. He was indicted twice in Texas for crimes. Those are still going forward. A number of Members of the House of Representatives are now in jail; House staff in jail.

The K Street Project. What was the K Street Project? What it was: If you were a lobbyist downtown, you had to do what DeLay and the boys in the House wanted you to do or you could not get a job down there. They had to approve who was hired on K Street. That is what we call the “lobbyist fiefdom.”

So there was a reason the nine new Democratic Senators wanted us to move forward quickly on ethics and lobbying reform. S. 1, the first bill we did—the most important bill is listed No. 1—was ethics and lobbying reform; and we passed it. It has been passed. It is the most sweeping ethics and lobbying reform in the history of our country.

I have said publicly, I say again in front of one of the nine new Democratic Senators, thank you for bringing to Washington a new culture. Yesterday, when that passed, we are in that new culture now.

We have sent to the President benchmarks to measure progress in Iraq. We sent to the President and funded mine-resistant combat vehicles. We sent to the President legislation giving the National Guard the equipment they need. The President went to the gulf—Katrina—and looked at it 22 times, I am told. But he would not give them any money. We forced the President to take what we wanted to give him in the supplemental appropriations bill—\$7 billion. And we got that to the gulf victims.

We got disaster relief for small businesses and farms—3 years overdue. Wildfires are burning in the West as we speak. In Nevada, last week, we had 20 fires burning at the same time. We have one fire we share with the State of Idaho that is approaching a million acres burning. We got wildfire relief.

We were able to pass a law preserving the U.S. attorneys’ independence. Why did we do it? Well, they were firing U.S. attorneys. The Presiding Officer was a U.S. attorney. There is an old saying in the law: What are you trying to do, make a Federal case out of it? Why did we say that? Because U.S. attorneys make cases you cannot beat most of the time.

But these U.S. attorneys, under this administration—under this corrupt administration—had to do what this ad-

ministration wanted them to do or they had to go look for a new job. We do not know the full extent of what U.S. attorneys did because of political pressure from Karl Rove and others at the White House. I do not know if we will ever know. We know some of it.

What else have we passed? A pay raise for our troops, making college education more affordable. We passed in our reconciliation bill the most significant change in college education since the GI Bill of Rights. We passed CAFE standards, raising the fuel efficiency of vehicles for the first time in 25 years.

We passed, recently—first of all, in the supplemental appropriations bill, we funded SCHIP, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, until the 1st of October. And here, yesterday, we passed health insurance for children. The Wounded Warriors legislation passed; a balanced budget with pay as you go. What does that mean? We passed a budget. The Republicans, for 3 years they had a majority of 55 to 45, and they could not pass a budget. We did it with a majority of 1—50 to 49. It is balanced, it is pay as you go. The Republicans, in the past, ran up these astronomical debts for our country, and did it with red ink.

We do not do that. We gave middle-class tax cuts, extended the child tax cut, gave tax relief for small businesses, funded women’s health. We expanded eligibility for Head Start.

We had 94 hearings addressing the conduct of the war, and it is so important we have done that. As a result, we were able to take a look at the scandals that took place at Walter Reed, where our veterans were being neglected. We have things in progress we have passed and are waiting for conference reports to come back.

We are going to try—we tried to pass it tonight. There was an objection to reauthorizing the FDA, Food and Drug Administration, WRDA, Water Resources Development Act. We passed the competitive legislation that some say is some of the most important legislation passed in this body in decades, making this country more competitive educationally and in the business world.

The President has vetoed important legislation—stem cell research. Giving hope to millions of Americans has been vetoed by the President. The President vetoed timelines for bringing our troops home from Iraq.

And then, of course, we had a number of things blocked by obstructionism of the Republicans—lower priced prescription drugs. We were prevented from being able to vote because we could not get 60 votes, with the obstructionism of the Republicans on the ability of Medicare to negotiate for lower priced drugs. Insurance companies can do it, HMOs can do it but not Medicare. That is wrong, and we have been blocked from doing that.

We were even stopped from doing an Intelligence authorization bill. It is

hard to comprehend, but that is true. This country is at war with the terrorists, but they have prevented us from doing an Intelligence authorization bill; there are a number of agencies in this country that handle our intelligence, our spying, and they stopped us from updating what they need to be able to do.

They twice filibustered antisurge legislation in Iraq, forced 45 cloture votes.

So, Mr. President, we have had a very productive 7 months. I hope we can come back and do more. I have been very happy with the last month or so. It appears bipartisanship is breaking out all over. I hope that can continue. As I said yesterday, when we do something good, there is a lot of credit to go around. When we do not do anything, there is a lot of blame to go around.

THANKING STAFF

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I extend my appreciation to our valiant staff. I wish them a very pleasant August. They worked so hard, along with us. We could not do our work without them. Everyone in this body here tonight—from our pages to our Parliamentarians to all the clerks, court reporters, police officers—I appreciate all the work they do.

FDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one thing I failed to mention with FDA, we got a letter from the administration saying: Go to conference on FDA. We tried. It was blocked by three Republicans. They should not have written the letter to me. They should have written it to them.

TRIBUTE TO HAZEL GETTY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to join all our Senate colleagues and the Sergeant-at-Arms in honoring a valued, longtime Senate employee, Hazel Getty. Hazel will retire on August 3 from the Senate after 28 years of faithful and successful service.

For a staff member, Hazel has the unusual distinction of having served everyone in the Senate—Members, officers, staff, the Capitol Police and the Architect of the Capitol, and all their constituencies from her office in the Sergeant-at-Arms Printing, Graphics and Direct Mail, PG&DM, branch. In her role as manager of that department, Hazel has supported the people and processes which yield the many excellent printed products we rely on to inform, persuade and delight. Franked mail, floor charts, posters, the beautiful “Welcome to Washington” books we give to visitors, photocopying, and flag packaging are a few major services provided by Hazel’s department, and there are many more. The extremely high quality of PG&DM products testifies to Hazel’s devotion to excellence, to the Senate, and to the employees who work with her.